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Title: A METHOD OF SYNCHRONIZING THE REPLAY OF AUDIO DATA IN A NETWORK OF COMPUTERS

Group Art Unit: 2661

Examiner: Ian N. Moore

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 6 (cancelled):

Claim 7 (new): A method of synchronizing the replay of audio data comprising the steps of:

- a) establishing a network of computers within earshot of one another;
- b) sending audio data from a source station to the network of computers;
- c) dividing the audio data into data packets;
- d) setting out the data packets from the source station to respective destinations stations in the network of computers at substantially the same time;
- e) wherein said data packets take travel times to reach the respective destination stations having a random distribution over a range of times;
- f) determining the point in time when a data packet would arrive if had taken the average travel duration, and providing a delay between the time each packet is sent and its replay, the delay being adapted such that it corresponds to a time duration correlated to said point in time.

Claim 8 (new): A method of synchronizing the replay of audio data comprising the steps of:

- g) establishing a network of computers within earshot of one another;
- h) sending audio data from a source station to the network of computers;
- i) dividing the audio data into data packets;
- j) setting out the data packets from the source station to respective destinations stations in the network of computers at substantially the

same time;

- k) wherein said data packets take travel times to reach the respective destination stations having a random distribution over a range of times;
- l) determining the point in time when a data packet would arrive if had taken the minimum travel duration, and providing a delay between the time each packet is sent and its replay, the delay being adapted such that it corresponds to a time duration correlated to said point in time.

Claim 9 (new): A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the distribution is a normal distribution.

Claim 10 (new): A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the distribution is a normal distribution.

Claim 11 (new): A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the delay time is sufficiently long for several data packets to have arrived at the respective destination stations before determining one of the delay, average travel time and minimum travel time.

Claim 12 (new): A method as claimed in claim 8 in which the delay time is sufficiently long for several data packets to have arrived at the respective destination stations before determining one of the delay, average travel time and minimum travel time.